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VIA FACSIMILE

To: Examiner Eugene Lee
 Group Art Unit No. 2815
 U.S.P.T.O.

Facsimile No.: (703) 872-9306

From: Sean M. McGinn

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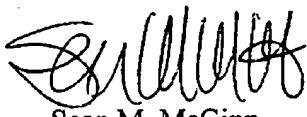
Re: Enclosed Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and Petition and Fee for Three-Month
 Extension of Time
 U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/496,421
 Our Reference: NEC.153

Dear Examiner Lee:

Enclosed is an Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and Petition and Fee for Three-Month Extension of Time, which we request that you enter and which should place the above-referenced case in condition for allowance.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration on this case.

Very truly yours,



Sean M. McGinn

SMM:has
 Enclosure

Total No. of Pages Transmitted: 10